



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,188	07/30/2003	Hiroshi Tokuda	08011.007	9228

7590 08/25/2005

Christopher J. Fildes
Fildes & Outland, P.C.
Suite 2
20916 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

EXAMINER

LE, HUNG CHARLIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3725

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,188

Applicant(s)

TOKUDA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Hung C. Le

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

1) On Page 12, Line 6: "...line A-A of the work shown in FIG. 1(a)."

Should be: "...line A-A of the work shown in FIG. 1(B)."

2) On Page 14, Line 22: "cylinder 6a disposed at an upper base 4a of the body 4
...."

Should be: "...cylinder 6a disposed at an upper base 4d of the body 4"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 – 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Usui et al. (6,530,255 B1) in view of Copeman (5,440,912) and further in view of Schneider et al. (4,981,031).

With respect to Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 13:

Usui et al. disclose: A compound press-press apparatus including an upper die (41) fixed to an elevated-side portion of a press machine (10) that is moving up and down by an elevator (44), a lower die set (47) fixed to a fixed side portion of the press machine, and working portions formed at respective corresponding portions of the upper and lower dies to conduct press working to a work jointly, comprising:

Side-face working apparatus (50,55) that is disposed at the side of said lower die (47) on the fixed-side portion of the press machine to conduct side-face press working to a side-face portion of the work jointly with the lower die, Wherein said side-face working apparatus (50,55) comprises a rotating base (51, 56) that is supported on the fixed-side portion of the press machine so as to rotate thereon, a reciprocating base (52, 57) that is supported on said rotating base so as to reciprocate there on, a side-face working portion (53, 58) that is formed at an end portion of said reciprocating base to conduct side-face working to the side-face portion of the work jointly with said lower die (47), and said side-face working apparatus (50,55) is constituted such that it moves to an avoidance position in which the side face working apparatus is not in the way of the upper die (41) going up and down, during said press working by the upper and lower dies (41,47), whereas it moves to a working capable position, in which said side-face press working is capable, after the upper die goes up, during said side-face press working by the side-face working portion and the lower die. (See Figs 1 – 7)

Usui et al. further disclose: Finally, various holes are made in the bent forming (112) to produce a vehicle body panel, and the vehicle body panel is assembled to a vehicle body on an assembly line. (See Col. 1, lines 40 – 42)

Usui further disclose: The finish bending die pair (40) carries out finish bending

With the finish bender (50) and hole-making with the piercer (55) on a coarsely bent forming (49) set between the upper die (41) and the lower die (47)., by the upper die (41) being lowered to the lower die (47). (See Col. 4, Lines 38 – 42)

Copeman (5,440,912) teaches: An apparatus is provided to form a workpiece (99) to a net position and pierce a hole in the workpiece (See Col. 2, Lines 3 – 29). The apparatus includes a base (404) having an inner and outer slide assembly (101A, 200A) mounted thereon for reciprocal movement. (See Col. 3, Lines 58 – 63)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Copeman with the work of Usui et al. for the purpose of providing a more compact mechanism capable of forming a workpiece to a net position and piercing the workpiece.

With respect to Claim 4:

Schneider et al. (4,981,031) teach: A transfer device (5) permits different moving sequences of holding devices (40) for sheet metal parts which are to be moved through a metal-forming machine. The holding devices are fastened to carriages (23 – 31). The carriages are cam-guided, in which case carriage carries out a transfer movement from a working stage to an idle stage while taking along a

sheet metal part. (See Col. 4, Lines 13 – 24)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Schneider et al. with the work of Usui et al. for the purpose of providing a transfer device which does not hinder the changing operation of the tools by means of supporting and driving devices affecting the transfer device below the level of the sheet metal conveyance.

With respect to Claims 14 & 15:

The method to carry out works on the compound press-forming apparatus as described by Usui et al., in combination with Copeman and Schneider et al., is capable to meet the invention claims.

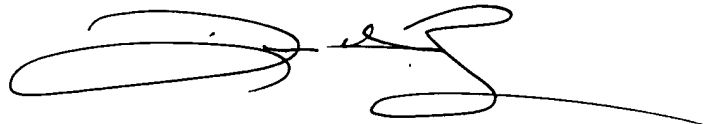
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung C. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-8757. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 08:00am - 05:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is

703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HCL
08/19/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700